Oldmans Township Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2024

The regular meeting of the Oldmans Township Committee was held on February 14, 2024. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Murphy at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: William Ferrell, David Murphy and Dean Sparks

Approval of Minutes: January 3, 2024 Reorganization Meeting

 January 3, 2024 Regular Meeting

 February 8, 2024 Special Meeting

 February 8, 2024 Executive Meeting

Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

FINANCE OFFICE:

**Resolution 2024-37** Transfer Resolution for Temporary 2024 Municipal Budget

Emergency temporary budget in the amount of 26.25% until new budget is approved. Allowed to request additional funds. 2024 budget will be introduced in April with adoption in May.

 Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

**Ordinance 2024-01** Calendar Year 2024 - Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

**Resolution 2024-38** Introduction to Ordinance 2024-01

Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

**Resolution 2024-27** Appointment of Clean Communities Coordinator

Resolution tabled.

**Resolution 2024-39** Authorizing Mayor David Murphy as Contact Person for JIF Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Services

Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2024-40** Authorizing Sale of 2-4 W. Mill Street

Bid submission will take place March 12, 2024 with a minimum bid price of $10,000 and conditions.

 Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

**Resolution 2024-41** Authorizing Shared Services Agreement with and Between Elsinboro Township, Mannington Township, Oldmans Township and Lower Alloways Creek for Trash and Recycling Collection Services in 2024

Oldmans will be paying $2,000.00 less than last year’s contract due to lower fuel costs.

 Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

NJ DEP Model Tree Removal/Replacement Ordinance – Based on the new Tier A stormwater requirements, this ordinance is now required to be adopted by May 1, 2024. The Committee discussed whether the ordinance could be amended. Mr. Sparks recommended not taking any action at this time.

Oldmans Landfill Update – While the landfill is to be considered closed March 2024, the DEP is still requiring semi-annual methane testing for an additional four test periods. The annual ground water monitoring is no longer required. SCS Engineers submitted a proposal in an amount not to exceed $6,100 which includes semi-annual methane monitoring and a compliance/consulting service.

Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

Municipal Complex Solar – The Committee is considering solar for the municipal complex and the pump house at Auburn Water. Technical assistance from RCL has been offered. The project will have to go to bid.

D2 Cybersecurity External Penetration Testing Agreement – A proposal was received from JIF for software testing. Green Technology also offered software testing in their contract. Mr. Murphy will reach out to Mr. Green to confirm which testing the Township should be conducting.

PLANNING BOARD:

**Resolution 2024-42** Refund Various General Escrow Accounts

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Logan Volunteer Fire Company Brush Truck – Water pump not working. Estimate to rebuild pump is $16,400. To install a new water pump would be $25,000-$30,000.

**Resolution 2024-45** (By Title Only) Logan Volunteer Fire Company Emergency Repair of Brush Truck Water Pump

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Murphy seconded and both agreed. Mr. Ferrell abstained.

STREETS & ROADS

New Road - Phase 3 Construction Specifications and Inspection Support – Oldmans received a grant from the NJDOT in the amount of $93,488 to continue repaving New Road. Asphalt prices have decreased. Mr. Tedesco is hoping that New Road would be able to be paved all the way to Perkintown. Mr. Tedesco will prepare the bid package for this spring.

Carolina Drive Update – In December using funds from the NJDOT grant, Oldmans installed new curbing and sidewalks along Carolina Drive. NJ American Water then installed service laterals in January. Oldmans then had the road repaved in February. Where a couple of the lateral lines were installed are now sinking. Mr. Tedesco met with the NJ American Water supervisor at the site to discuss the necessary repairs. NJ American Water will correct the low spots in April or May. Waiting to see if additional low spots occur.

Appointment of Harold “Brick” Roberts as Crossing Guard

Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

Traffic Remediation Priority

Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Murphy attended the County Public Works meeting. The County would like a list of priorities of what intersections/roads need to be addressed for traffic control. The Committee agreed to the following:

* Installation of four-way stop signs at Pedricktown-Woodstown Road and Pointers-Auburn Road
* Installation of four-way stop signs at Pedricktown-Woodstown Road and Pennsville-Auburn Rd The County has budgeted for the installation of the four-way stops for one intersection this year; if the County pays for the signage, the other intersection would have to wait for the following year. The County will provide costs to Oldmans for the second intersection to see if Oldmans would like to purchase the signs.
* Rumble strips will be added to each intersection. Thirty (30) days prior to the installation of the four-way stop, signs will be set up warning drivers of the pending change. It is anticipated that the one intersection will be converted to four-way late spring.
* Straughns Mill and Porcupine Road will be repaved and the bridge at Beaver Creek will have new decking installed. Each road will be its own separate project. Should start late Spring. Traffic will be allowed one-way. Once finished, requested truck route signage will be installed beginning at Route 295 to Route 130. It is anticipated that the signs will be installed late July/early August.
* County Commissioner Ed Ramsey met with Gloucester County about the causeway and causeway bridge. Gloucester County will conduct a traffic study on their end. Mr. Ramsey proposed future discussions on limiting traffic on the causeway and Mill Street based on truck length.
* Install a high visibility crosswalk (flashing light) at the intersection of Mill Street and Railroad since children use those roads for walking to school.

Resolutions will be prepared for the March meeting and then sent to the County.

AUBURN WATER

**Resolution 2024-43** Establishing a Stipend for Weekend Testing of Auburn Water System for the Public Works Director

The NJDEP is requiring daily iron testing for Auburn Water. Currently Public Works Director Scott Myers has been conducting the daily testing, including weekend and holidays. The Township Committee would like to compensate Mr. Myers for his additional time, until the system is able to be automated. The Township is waiting for approval from the NJ DEP for an automated system. The Committee agreed to compensate Mr. Myers a net of $25.00/day for weekend and holiday testing.

 Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Resolution 2024-44** Opposing Assembly Bill No. 4/Senate Bill No. 50, Which Proposes to Overhaul the Fair Housing Act in a Way that Imposes Unrealistic Obligations with Unrealistic Deadlines Based upon Onerous Standards

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Keith Walton Questioned the procedure and purpose of the special meeting held February 8th.

Dean Sparks Topics included the possibility of solar, housing complaint, opposition of the proposed COAH amendments by the State and Auburn Water iron testing.

Keith Walton Wanted to know if the proposed tree ordinance is 100% required by the State.

Joe DiNicola Yes, 100% required in order to be compliant with the stormwater rules.

Keith Walton What about diseased trees that are removed? What about Right to Farm and how this ordinance effects that?

Joe DiNicola Diseased trees are exempt. Right to Farm has to be specifically included in the statute in order to be excluded. Right to Farm is not exempt.

Steve Wilson Can the municipality change the model ordinance?

Joe DiNicola Township can change the model.

Steve Baker There is already a sign on the Gloucester County side of the causeway limiting size of trucks, which is not working.

Bill Ferrell Agreed that signage will not fix the problem 100% but hopes to deter the traffic. Communication with the trucking companies should help.

Steve Baker Suggested a truck route sign be installed at the intersection of Penns Grove-Pedricktown Road and Mill Street, where it crosses Straughns Mill, so trucks coming off Pennsville-Pedricktown don’t cross into town.

Bill Ferrell When signage is completed, the County can notify GPS to divert truck traffic to the designated truck route. GPS truck software will notate truck traffic but if driver is using cell phone GPS, it won’t show up.

Donna Carassai There is still a tractor still left at the old truck stop, along with a car.

Melinda Taylor Will notify property owner.

Steve Baker Questioned the realtor sign by the airport.

Dean Sparks Realtor signs are for Rose Sorbello’s property, now owned by Knight Owl. Both sides of Route 295 are for sale.

Jeff Moore There is still flooding on the causeway. Fire company is still pulling out flooded cars.

Scott Myers The County now has a sign available that says “Road Flooded” rather than just using barrels.

Dave Murphy Gloucester County is looking to remediate the road flooding on the causeway.

Jeff Moore Pedricktown-Woodstown Road is flooding at the bridge more now than in the past.

Harry Moore Wanted to know if Resolution 2024-44 (COAH Opposition) affected all municipalities.

David Murphy Yes all.

CLOSED TO PUBLIC

Dean Sparks 1. Read from a study regarding the plastic bag ban. According to this study the plastic bag ban has increased plastic bag consumption, increased green gas emissions due to making the bags. More homes are using delivery service now.

 2. Hiliary Salyards from Oldmans Township School is leaving employment there to work for Salem County Special Services.

 3. Oldmans Township recently hosted the local government dinner which was catered by the Salem County Votech culinary students. Very well received by the patrons. The culinary school is available for hire.

Melinda Taylor Reminded the Committee of two required JIF training sessions – Elected Officials training and Wizer cyber security training.

**Resolution 2024-46** Executive Session – Personnel (8:20 pm)

Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve, Mr. Sparks seconded and all agreed.

SUMMARY (9:20 pm)

Discussed the Clean Communities Program

**Resolution 2024-27** Appointment of Harry Moore as Clean Communities Coordinator

Mr. Sparks made a motion to approve, Mr. Ferrell seconded and all agreed.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Sparks, seconded by Mr. Ferrell and all agreed to adjourn the meeting 9:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Taylor

Municipal Clerk